

SHAKESPEARE AND LOST PLAYS

Shakespeare and Lost Plays returns Shakespeare's dramatic work to its most immediate and (arguably) pivotal context; by situating it alongside the hundreds of plays known to Shakespeare's original audiences, but lost to us. David McInnis reassesses the value of lost plays in relation to both the companies that originally performed them, and to contemporary scholars of early modern drama. This innovative study revisits key moments in Shakespeare's career and the development of his company and, by prioritising the immense volume of information we now possess about lost plays, provides a richer, more accurate picture of dramatic activity than has hitherto been possible. By considering a variety of ways to grapple with the problem of lost, imperceptible or ignored texts, this volume presents a methodology for working with lacunae in archival evidence and the distorting effect of Shakespeare-centric narratives, thus reinterpreting our perception of the field of early modern drama.

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Reimagining Drama in Early Modern England

DAVID MCINNIS

University of Melbourne



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For Roslyn Knutson, of course

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*A Note on Conventions for the Titles
of Lost Plays*

Since the earliest stages of our collaborative work, Roslyn Knutson and I have opted to reserve the use of italics for the titles of extant plays and to use quotation marks to denote lost play titles, and I follow this practice throughout this book. I modernize titles when there's no question of identity but where the play titles are ambiguous or there is a need for scholarly interpretation, I quote the spelling of documentary records instead.

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